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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD

COUNTRY Latvia

DATE DISTR. 18 JAN'54

SUBJECT Research Laboratory of the Post and Telegraph Department/Level of Research/Impact of USSR Occupation 1940-41/Level of Competence of a Graduate Engineer

NO. OF PAGES 2

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 25X1

1. the research laboratory of the Post and Telegraph Department, there were about 20 people all working on low frequency repeater stations. The laboratory was located in the main Riga Post Office building on Aspazijas Boulevard. line amplifiers and switching devices to cut into long distance lines. This research had started in 1940 and was quite important to the country, because Latvia did not have the dollars to import much equipment and material and was forced to improvise and design its own equipment. Much of the wire used was made of iron, particularly those lines within the country, and consequently amplifiers to increase the current at periodic intervals was necessary.

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2. At the time of the German occupation big repeater stations were built one in northern Riga and another at Yalgava. When long distance calls were made outside the country, a switching device was used to transfer the call from an iron line to a copper one for better transmission. the percentage of iron to copper used, but iron lines were in the majority. All the lines between Eastern and Western Europe were in good condition - copper cables and open wire - but no coaxal cables and only short stretches of cable.

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3. The level of research in this laboratory dial systems were in common use in Latvia, and there have been no great changes in this field as there have in the field of electronics. The systems were, of course, smaller in Riga, a city of 400 thousand population, the 100 thousand system was in use.

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4. There was only one other laboratory in Latvia engaged in the same field of research and that was located at the state factory, commonly called VEF [*Valsts Elektrotechniska Fabrika], that built manual and dial exchange systems.

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* State Electrical-Technical Plant

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

5. The Post and Telegraph Department, as well as the Highway and Railway Department, was under the Ministry of Communications. The telephone, telegraph, broadcast stations, and of course, the post office department, were under the Post and Telegraph Department. There was only one director for the telephone and telegraph department [redacted] The broadcast stations had their own laboratory in the same building [redacted]

6. In 1940 and 1941, when the USSR took over the country, there were no changes made in the research, or in little else. There were changes in the administration and there were a few signs that the Soviets wanted to expand the laboratory, but they did not have sufficient time to make any impression.

7. It is most difficult to assess the level of competence of a Latvian engineering graduate of the class of 1944, [redacted] for one must consider [redacted] education is basically one of emphasis rather than quality. The graduate engineer in Latvia had much more practical experience because a minimum of 12 months practice was required before graduation. The minimum time to graduate was 5½ years, but this was usually extended sometimes to as much as 10 years, by working and taking the minimum exams to qualify. The subjects one was required to take [redacted] the University of Riga required more math. [redacted] while the specialties were broader in Latvia, all of which included drafting. [redacted]

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